

Application No.: 09/806,775

Docket No.: 20386-00294-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

1-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~24~~ 28, wherein said first component, said second component and said fuel gas are supplied to the flame coaxially.

23. (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein said first component is silicon or germanium tetrachloride and said second component is a solution containing erbium nitrate, water or alcohol, and a form of aluminum which is soluble in water or alcohol, such that multicomponent glass particles can be formed to manufacture active fiber.

24. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~24~~ 28, wherein said first component is silicon or germanium tetrachloride and said second component is a solution containing erbium nitrate, water or alcohol, and a form of aluminum which is soluble in water or alcohol, such that multicomponent glass particles can be formed to manufacture active fiber.

25-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~26~~ 33, wherein said first gas tube, said liquid tube and said means for introducing said fuel gas are arranged coaxially.

28. (new) A method for spraying a material, comprising:

producing a flame using a fuel gas; and

introducing oxygen to the flame;

introducing a first component to the flame in gaseous or vaporous form;

introducing a second component to the flame in liquid form; and

introducing an atomizing gas to a common nozzle for atomizing said second component,

wherein said first component, said second component, said oxygen and said fuel gas are introduced to the flame with said common nozzle, and wherein, after passing said common

Application No.: 09/806,775

Docket No.: 20386-00294-US

nozzle, said first and second components react with each other and said oxygen to form multicomponent particles.

29. (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein said multicomponent particles are homogeneous multicomponent particles.

30. (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein said oxygen participates in production of the flame by reacting with said fuel gas.

31. (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein said second component is atomized using said fuel gas.

32. (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein said atomizing gas is said fuel gas.

33. (new) A spraying device for spraying of a material, said spraying device comprising:
means for introducing a fuel gas in such a way that the fuel gas produces a flame;
an oxygen tube arranged to introduce oxygen to the flame;
a first gas tube arranged to introduce at least a first component to the flame in a gaseous or vaporous form;
a liquid tube arranged to introduce at least a second component to the flame in liquid form;
a common nozzle arranged to supply said first and second components, said oxygen and said fuel gas to said flame; and
a second gas tube arranged to introduce an atomizing gas to said common nozzle for atomizing said second component, wherein said first and second gas tubes and said common nozzle are arranged in such a way that, after passing said common nozzle, said first and second components react with each other and said oxygen to form multicomponent particles.

34. (new) A spraying device according to claim 33, wherein said multicomponent particles are homogeneous multicomponent particles.

Application No.: 09/806,775

Docket No.: 20386-00294-US

35. (new) A spraying device according to claim 33, wherein said means for introducing the fuel gas are arranged such that said fuel gas atomizes said second component.